

## Four State Conferences

Two State or District Conferences are in session this week, the Illiokota at Montour, Iowa, and the Kenemorado at McLouth, Kansas. Two State Conferences will meet next week, that of Indiana at Roann, and that of Pennsylvania at Conemaugh. The former promises to be the largest ever held in that State since the organization of the work. We have not been so closely in touch with the officers of the latter as with the former, but no doubt the Brethren of the Keystone State will see that this their last Conference of the century will be one of the very best ever held in that State, and by the way Pennsylvania was the first State to hold Sunday School and Church Conferences. The first one was held near Berlin, in 1880, and in 1881 a permanent organization was affected at Salisbury, (Elk Lick) where the present editor was elected permanent secretary which position he held until the year 1894 when he was called to take charge of the editorial work of all the publications of the church.

Brother W. H. Miller whose whole heart is in the work is making a most commendable effort for the success of the Conference in the State of Indiana, and unless we mistake all present indications his efforts will not be in vain. In our enthusiasm for National Conference it is not only possible, but quite probable, that we lose sight of the importance of our State work, forgetting that the effective work of our national organization is, in a very large measure, dependent on the proper organization of our State work. Too often the enthusiasm awakened at our National Conference is considerably dampened before we reach our State Conferences. This should not be so. Far better it is to carry the zeal from the State Conference to the National Conference than *vice versa*. Our State work must have our first attention; the enthusiasm which exhausts itself on the National work, then lags at the State Conference, is not the right kind. If our State work is properly and effectively organized the National work will not lack in enthusiasm. There is a great work to be done in the several States or Districts for which the National Conference can make no provision, and even if it could would not be wise to do so. Farther removed from these fields of labor, the National organization can not possibly keep in as close touch with the work as the State organizations, besides, in harmony with our congregational form of government, the work properly belongs to the several States or Districts. We make a plea, therefore, for the State Conference, not that there should be less enthusiasm for our National Conference, but that there might be more for our State organizations. Programs should be prepared and published, at least

two, if not three months, prior to the time when the Conference is to meet; properly printed blanks, accompanied by a printed letter of explanation, should be sent to all the pastors in the District or State in which the Conference is to be held, and the matter constantly kept before the people. The columns of the EVANGELIST are always open for such agitation. In fact we shall be pleased to have this question, "Importance of State Conferences," or "The Importance of more Perfect State Organization," discussed thru the EVANGELIST. Why not have a symposium on the subject? Will Brother Teeter, of the Illiokota District, open the debate, to be followed by other representative men from each State or District? Contributions should not be more than one column in length.

## The Galveston Horror

What tongue can tell the terrors of a night and a day in the once prosperous and beautiful southern city. Verily it was a day of wrath, a day and a night given over to the "Prince of the power of the air," he whom many think is the messenger of wrath and judgment, grim and terrible as he rides upon the dark tempest, Death sitting at his right hand. For out of the dark mystery of the sea came this irresistible tempest, clouds and darkness, and thunderings as of a world wrecked, and lightnings like fiery swords flashing in a battle of demons, the frightened billows of the great gulf flying before the rage of the winds and the roar of the mad elements. In the midst of all this vast and relentless fury was a proud city of puny men. How helpless. How vain the boasted strength of walls and bulwarks. How worthless were all social distinctions. How vain the trappings of wealth. In the dreadful vortex of ruin rushing in from the dark gulf, riding upon the wings of the swift wind and wrapped in the mantle of black night, all the pride and power of man vanished into that nothingness which is the essential element of its own ephemeral nature. High carnival Death held in the streets of the devoted city that fearful night, and when the morning came it revealed such a spectacle as the world wishes might never come to disturb its false security. In the awful spectacle of this ruin and death, other cities tremble, lest some avengement overtake their crying iniquities. In terrible guise Death walked those streets that indescribable night, the irresistible winds bearing his banner, the irresistible waves beating upon every door, announcing eternity to trembling thousands; "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." Pity has touched the whole land, and the bountiful hand of help has been held out to the suffering survivors, but not until the sea gives up its dead will the world ever know

the story of terror wrought out in that pitchy night of swift destruction, when the chariots of God rode thru the city which sat as a queen beside the dark waters.

## A Large School

In the amount of Brethren literature used each quarter the Johnstown, Pa. Sunday-school stands at the head of all the schools in the brotherhood, tho we were most agreeably surprised when we received the order for literature from the Allentown, Pa. Sunday school. It must be remembered that this is practical a mission point under the care of the Philadelphia church. Surely in this case the parents have given the child wholesome instruction, and especially along the line of loyalty to the institutions of the church. The Allentown school now stands third in the brotherhood in the amount of literature ordered. Following are the largest three orders received at this office for next quarter's literature:

## Johnstown, Pa.—

Brethren Quartelies,	175
Youths Quartelies,	130
Our Little Folks,	40
The Angelus,	125

## Philadelphia, Pa.—

Brethren Quartelies,	170
Youths Quartelies,	70
Our Little Folks,	50
The Angelus,	80

## Allentown, Pa.—

Brethren Quartelies,	100
Youths Quartelies,	100
Our Little Folks,	100
The Angelus,	60

It will be seen that the Johnstown order is the largest, the Philadelphia order second, and the Allentown order third. Is it significant that these three orders are from Pennsylvania? In another issue we will make note of the State receiving the largest amount of our literature, and what number of each.

## Personal Mention

From Brother Shaver we learn that communion services will be held at Maurertown, Va., Saturday evening, October 20.

Sister Rittenhouse who visited at Ridgely, Md., with her daughter, returned to her home at Ashland a few weeks ago well and happy.

Brother I. D. Bowman is at Cerro Gordo, Ill., holding forth the word with his usual success, up to date nine conversions are reported.

The work in Washington continues to prosper, three more accessions being reported by Brother Lyon in this issue. Brother Talley also speaks hopefully of the work in Chicago.

Brother Schisler began revival services at Lordsburg, California, September 22; Brother Shively goes there to assist him October 1. We trust they may have an interesting and profitable meeting.

On Sabbath morning after the regular preaching services Brother Witter of the College Faculty, and Sister Phillips, Director in Music, both became members of the Ashland City church by letter.